Decline of Under Ground Water Level in Punjab

3389. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the underground water level in Punjab is constantly declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources during the years 1982-2001 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 20cm/year in some parts of Amritsar, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Patiala, Ropar and Sangrur districts of Punjab.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures to check decline in ground water level:—

(i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study Recharge to Ground Water in the country, under which 17 artificial recharge projects were approved for implementation in Punjab, at a cost of Rs. 361.92 lakhs.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories including Punjab to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970, which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories including Punjab to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(v) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has declared Ludhiana City of Punjab as Notified Area for regulating ground water extraction.

(vi) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

Irrigation Projects in U.P.

3390. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major and medium irrigation projects in U.P. which are not completed so far;

(b) what was the initial cost when each of the projects were taken up with target date of completion;

(c) the latest estimate of each of the projects with the likely time of completion of each projects; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) There are 10 major ongoing irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh including inter-State projects. However, there is no ongoing medium irrigation project in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Details including name of projects, their plan of start, original cost, latest estimated cost and target date for completion are in the annexed statement *(See below).*

(d) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments as per their own priorities and completion of the project depends upon the priority attached to it by the concerned State Government.